

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph on page 2, lines 18-21, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Therefore the present invention relates to a compound which inhibits the binding of the free light chain of immunoglobulin to mast cells, wherein the compound, in the presence of an equimolar quantity of free light chain (LC) of immunoglobulin reduces its binding by at least 5%.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6-9, 14-15, and 26-30 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Amended) A compound that inhibits binding of free light chain of immunoglobulin (LC) to mast cells:

wherein when the compound is in the presence of an equimolar quantity of the free light chain of immunoglobulin in a solution, the free light chain of immunoglobulin's binding to said mast cells is reduced by at least 5%.

2. (Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound also:

binds to the free light chain of immunoglobulin;
competes with a peptide for binding to the free light chain of immunoglobulin, wherein said peptide has the amino acid sequence AHWSGHCC (SEQ ID NO:1); and

wherein when said compound and said peptide are present in equimolar amounts in a solution, said compound reduces binding of said peptide to said free light chain of immunoglobulin by at least 5%.

3. (Twice Amended) The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound reduces the binding of said peptide to the free light chain of immunoglobulin by at least 10%.